

## Contingency Plan Elements

**PART 1** (Based on your fire behavior calculations for the fuels within and surrounding the burn unit at the hot end of your prescription.)

- Identify the additional resources you need that will specifically patrol and attack slop-overs based on potential for spotting and the distance of that spotting. Be specific as to the overall strategy and the tactics that should be employed. If the regular burn crew will also be responsible for these duties, specify who will respond and who will remain with the main fire (people and equipment). Who will direct the slop-over operations? Do the tactics and strategy change on different flanks of the burn (i.e. suppressing a head fire vs. a backing fire)?
- How big can a spot fire get, how many can you deal with, or how long can you allow for your crew(s) to be tied up with slop-overs before you exceed your capabilities to contain them and still implement your RX burn within time frames and forecast prescriptions that still meet the objectives?

**PART 2**     **It's beyond your onsite capabilities, you've declared it a wildfire.**  
**Some things to consider...**

- What are the qualifications of the people on your burn, including yourself? Do you have Wildfire qualified personnel on site or do you need to order them? (**All** wildfire firefighters must meet the arduous physical fitness standards).
  - What are you going to do with your unqualified people (Release them, assign them off line duties)?
- Who are you going to call for help? (DNR, Local VFD, other agencies)
  - How are you going to contact them? (Radio, phone, through dispatch)
  - What's their number, call sign. Who's the contact person?
  - Are they available? Or have they been called out on another fire?
  - Do they have people and equipment that can help you? Or are they in worse physical shape than your folks, show up with 2 wheel drive trucks that are going to sink out of sight, and expect you to direct the whole operation?
  - How long is it going to take for them to get there?
  - Who is there on site contact? How/where do they make that contact?
- Are there immediate concerns for the safety and well being of the public?
  - Are people, private homes, structures or lands threatened?
    - How close are the nearest homes, structures and private lands.
    - Who owns them and what are their phone numbers?
    - Are they home? Are there pets or livestock?
    - Is there access in and out?
  - Is smoke a hazard downwind?
    - Are you monitoring your smoke so that you know if you have a problem (lookouts)?
      - How far from your burn? (2 mile, 1 mile, 5 miles, 20 miles)

- Is it being done from the ground or by air?
  - Do you have standards (visibility, other) to determine how much is too much?
- Highway visibility (do you need to close a road NOW!)
  - Smoke sensitive areas (hospitals, airports, old folks homes, etc.)
- What about interested motorists, tourists, highway workers?
  - Are they safe?
  - Are they a hazard (to your crews, the public, themselves)?
- Who will you get to help with these problems?
  - The Refuge Officer?
  - Sheriffs Department?
  - State Patrol?
  - How do you contact them?
- Do you have a general strategy for containing the fire?
  - Is it already identified in the FMP? Are there natural barriers that would make good containment lines (roads, ditches, pools,)?
  - Are there weak points in those lines that need initial action?
  - What are the tactics specific to those containment lines?
  - Is the access limited to tracked vehicles or ATV's?
    - Are they available with qualified operators?
  - Will you need to build fireline? (Handline, wetline, dozerline, etc.)
    - What type of people and equipment to you need?
- Do you have maps/photos of the area?
  - Who has copies?
    - All the RX firefighters?
    - What about the responding units?
  - Are they up to date?
  - Are they good quality and easy to read, or poor photo copied aerial photos?
  - Does it have a scale, north arrow and legend?
  - Does it have significant points identified?
    - Burn unit boundaries
    - Usable water sources
    - Prescribed wind direction
    - Sensitive features to protect
    - Parking, staging and turn around areas
    - Hazards
    - Pre-established safety zones and escape routes
- Do you have agreements in place so that you don't have to worry about how this will all be paid for, or will you need to negotiate each person and piece of equipment as it arrives on site and later explain why you didn't have those things in place before you started? YOYP (you order, you pay) is in effect!
- Can you, your Administrative Technician or someone else handle the initial role of checking in resources and recording personnel and equipment time keeping?
  - Do you have the needed forms? (OF-288, Firefighter time sheet, Equipment Hire Log, etc.)

- Do you have someone who can initially handle the roles of information officer and agency representative? It's inevitable that the press will show up along with who knows who.
- Notify the RM that a WFSA (Wildfire Situation Analysis) needs to be filled out at this point and that a Delegation of Authority needs to be prepared to turn the fire over to an Incident Command Team. (No, you can't come back to the office to help, you're too busy dealing with the emergency!)
  - Where are those forms?

### SO...

- What happens when the situation exceeds your capabilities?
  - Initiate the ICS system through your local dispatcher? How?
    - What are the phone number(s)?
      - Does your dispatcher have them?
    - What information do they need?
    - Are there specific forms that need to be filled out and/or Faxed? (Resource orders, NFES 1470)
  - Call the FMO and/or RFMC?
    - They'll be asking most of the above questions and helping (via phone) as per your requested needs. What are they?

## **PART 3** (Medical Emergencies)

- What are the abilities of the people on site (CPR, 1<sup>st</sup> Aid, 1<sup>st</sup> Responder, EMT)?
  - Do they have the tools and equipment they need to do that job?
    - 1<sup>st</sup> Aid Kit w/insect bite kit
    - CPR mask(s)
    - EMT Kit
  - Where are those tools (In fire packs, trucks, back at the office)?
- How do you initiate the EMS system in your area (911 or a specific number)? What is it?
  - How long is it going to take for the ambulance to get there?
  - How will the ambulance find your location?
  - Will someone be able to meet it and lead them there?
  - Are there locked gates?
  - Will it take 4WD? You may need to initiate evacuation to a pick up point.
- Does your area have a flight for life helicopter?
  - How long does it take to get to your location?
  - How will it find you?
  - How will it contact you?
    - What's your radio frequency?
    - What's your cell phone number?
  - Do you have helicopter expertise on site?
  - What are the landing site specifications it needs to land?
  - Are there hazards you need to make them aware of?
    - Power lines, etc.
  - **Keep everyone away from the helicopter!**

- Where will the victim(s) be taken?
  - If it's a burn injury, where is the nearest burn center?
  - Does your area EMS have a plan to initiate/authorize and expedite transportation to that site? Do you or the RM need to initiate/authorize that?
  - If you are the victim, does someone else know what to do?